

## LOCAL OPTION FIGHT IN NEWPORT NEWS?

Mr. Wellford Declines to Deny or Confirm Report of Movement.

PETITIONS PROBABLY WILL BE SENT OUT NEXT WEEK

Three Hundred and Eighty-four Signatures Will Cause Judge of Corporation Court to Order Election—Prohibition Leaders Confident of Success—Strode Bill.

According to seemingly well founded rumors which are neither denied nor confirmed by persons in a position to speak, a movement is on foot for the holding of a local option election in Newport News as soon as is practicable. This movement was launched at a meeting of twenty-five representative men in the study of Rev. E. T. Wellford, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, late Thursday night.

For the present, at least, what transpired at that meeting is a closed book, but Mr. Wellford announces that he will have some "interesting matter" to make public in the not distant future. It may be that this "matter" will be given to the public today.

When it became noised abroad yesterday that twenty-five men who, as Mr. Wellford expressed it, "had the courage of their convictions," met in secret session Monday night following the temperance rally at the First Presbyterian church, some rumors were busy. Inferences were drawn by some and they have not been corrected.

Practically Confirms Rumors. When seen at his home yesterday by a Daily Press reporter, Mr. Wellford said that he could not give out any of the details of the meeting at this time. This was his reply to a point blank question whether a movement for a local option election had been started. Mr. Wellford said that he had heard much talk about local option recently and apparently was not at all surprised that the inference had been drawn by some that local option for Newport News was discussed at the secret session. In fact, Mr. Wellford practically confirmed the rumors.

Mr. Wellford said that The Daily Press might state for him that the day was coming when Newport News would be a "dry" town. The reporter asked how much "grace" the Anti-saloon League would give the city and Mr. Wellford replied that he would not like to commit himself on that point.

Action of Senate Decides It. It was rumored yesterday that the movement started at the secret session in the pastor's study depended upon the action of the State senate with reference to the Strode "enabling" act. As Mr. Wellford and the twenty-five men "with the courage of their convictions" had anticipated, the senate killed the bill by an overwhelmingly majority.

News that the bill had been killed did not reach this city until after midnight and it was too late then to get an expression from Mr. Wellford. However, at the interview earlier in the day, Mr. Wellford left the reporter under the impression that the senate's action was the turning point. If the Strode "enabling" act passed the senate a State-wide election would follow, thus precluding the necessity for a local option election in this city.

Confident of Result. Mr. Wellford firmly believes that Newport News will vote "dry" in a local option election, and he apparently is ready and eager to make the test.

In order to secure an order for an election, it will be necessary to secure the signatures of one-fourth of the voters who participated in the gubernatorial election of last November to a petition to be presented to Judge Barnum. The total vote cast in Newport News in the November election was 1,536. Thus in order to get the election ordered, 384 voters must sign the petition.

Church Members Sign Petition. It is believed that there would be little difficulty in securing this number of signatures to the petition. Considerably more than this number of voters are to be found among the members of the various churches of the city and the pastors of the churches probably would have little

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difficulty in getting the names of the voters of their congregation to a petition asking for an election. Now that the Strode bill is a dead issue for two years, at least, it is believed that petitions asking for a local option election will be circulated early next week and the campaign probably will be on within less than a month.

Election On State-Wide Issue. In discussing the Strode measure yesterday Mr. Wellford said that every senator who voted against the measure was "dead" politically in Virginia. He said further that its defeat would mean that the next legislature would be elected on a State-wide issue.

He regretted, he said, that this had to be done, but this seemed to be the only way in which the Anti-saloon League could get the question before the people.

### SOCIAL PERSONAL.

Miss Phyllis Applewhite, who has been visiting her brothers, Dr. E. J. Applewhite, and A. A. Applewhite, on Thirty-third street, has returned to her home in Suffolk.

Miss Margaret Everett has returned from Roanoke, where she spent two weeks with relatives.

Miss Grace Stoddard, who has been visiting relatives in Atlanta, Ga., has returned home. Miss Alice Stoddard accompanied her and will be her guest in this city.

Miss May Sammons has returned from a visit to relatives in Michigan.

Miss Virginia Clayton, who has been visiting relatives in this city, has returned to her home in Pittsburgh.

Miss Bertha Greer has returned from a visit to relatives in Richmond.

Miss Mary Savage, who has been the guest of her cousins, the Misses Baylor, on Twenty-ninth street, left yesterday for West Virginia, where she will visit relatives before returning to her home in Ohio.

Mrs. William Thomas has as her guests in North End, Mrs. William Wood and son, Mr. John Wood, of Poquoson.

Mr. George Smith has returned to his home in Smithfield after a visit to relatives and friends in this city.

### NEW MINISTER ARRIVES.

Rev. J. Edward de Graffley Will Begin Pastorate Tomorrow.

Rev. J. Edward de Graffley, who was recently called to the pastorate of the Thirtieth Street Christian church, will arrive here today from Danville, Ill., and will assume his duties tomorrow, preaching at both the morning and evening services at the church.

Mr. de Graffley comes very highly recommended and is reputed to be a fine speaker and energetic worker.

### Looking for a Compliment.

A promising young New York clergyman who had just left divinity school was called back to the town of his alma mater to preach his first professional sermon, says the New York Sun. As far as he could judge it met with general favor, and it was with some satisfaction that he packed his grip and started for home. As he was about to board a train he saw the face of the distinguished minister who had tutored him in his undergraduate days. There was no time for greeting, but the doctor saw him and shouted after him, "Ah, M—, you made an effort."

"Now what does he mean by that?" said the young man to himself in chagrin. "Does he mean that I made hard work of it, or that I at least made an effort at a sermon, even if it wasn't successful?"

He was anxious to know what had been the matter with his sermon that he asked the doctor by letter. "My dear boy," the answer was, "I merely said 'Your maiden effort.'"

### Moore-Haag.

News was received here yesterday of the marriage in Washington of Alfred H. Haag and Miss Katherine Hoover, both of this city. The ceremony was performed Thursday by Rev. James H. W. Blake. Mr. Haag is a draftsman employed at the local shipyard and has a host of friends in this city.

### Notice, Luncheon Today.

St. Agatha's Guild of St. Paul's Episcopal church has arranged a pleasing menu for today which will be served from 12 to 2 o'clock in the vacant store room at the corner of Thirtieth street and Washington avenue.

### Human.

"How did they manage to get such a fine thumbprint of the burglar?" "The house had been painted that day and he just couldn't resist the temptation to feel of the paint to see if it was dry."—Houston Post.

### Discord is A-Flat.

The Neighbor—Have you learned that new piece of music yet? The Other Neighbor—Not quite, but I've been trying all morning. The Neighbor—Indeed you have—very!—Cleveland Leader.

C. B. Neime, Room No. 163, Sibley building, corner Twenty-seventh street and Washington Ave., Money Broker, Loans, Real Estate, Notary Public with seal. Houses built to suit purchaser. Bell phone No. 228. New York connection, Bernard Neime, Newbridge building, corner Thirty-fourth street and Broadway. 10.

W. E. Rouse—Funeral Director.

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## MONSTER IN THE ROADS

Brazilian "Dreadnaught" Minas Geraes Arrives.

HAS TWELVE BIG GUNS

South American Ship, Here to Bear Home Body of Dead Minister, Larger Than Any American War Craft Except the Delaware.

After being fog-bound off the Virginia Capes for two days, the monster Brazilian "dreadnaught" Minas Geraes, arrived in Hampton Roads at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning and dropped anchor off Old Point near the United States armored cruiser North Carolina. As the vessel entered the Roads she was saluted by the North Carolina and the land batteries at Fort Monroe and later the commanding officer of the American warship went aboard to pay his respects to Captain das Neves, commanding the Minas Geraes.

When she dropped anchor in the roadstead, the Minas Geraes had completed her maiden voyage, the vessel coming from the yards of her builders in England. When she stopped at the Azores she was ordered to proceed to Hampton Roads to convey the body of the late Brazilian Ambassador Seneo Nabuco, on board. The Minas Geraes, it was stated yesterday, will remain in the Roads ten days before starting for Rio. The body of the late ambassador will be brought from Washington on the yacht Mayflower and transferred to the North Carolina.

### Large as the Delaware.

Excepting the Newport News-built Delaware, which is not yet in commission, the Minas Geraes is the largest battleship that ever entered the Virginia Capes. She has a tonnage of 19,500 and is 545 feet long and 83 feet broad. She carries twelve 12-inch rifles in her main battery and twenty-two 5-inch rapid-firing guns in her secondary battery. The vessel is well protected by heavy armor along the waterline from stem to stern and by belts of thick armor above the waterline belt. Her general lines are not unlike those of the Delaware.

The arrangement of the turrets, the superstructure and smokestacks makes the Minas Geraes a peculiar looking craft. She has six turrets mounting two 12-inch guns each and two smokestacks. The vessel has only one military mast and that is located between the smokestacks. The mast is of a different type than any every used on an American warship. There is a center mast which is supported by a tripod. The vessel is equipped with wireless, the wires running all about the mast.

Following his arrival, Captain das Neves reported that his vessel encountered a succession of storms during the run from the Azores and this caused the delay in her arrival at Cape Henry. Some of the deck fixtures were slightly damaged by the high seas that swept the ship.

### Snobbish Among Women?

Gratifying evidence of the progress of at least one of our women's colleges toward masculine ideals of culture is furnished by the problem of the abolition of fraternities—or, perhaps, we should say sororities—which has come up at Wellesley.

At that seat of the higher female education, it seems, "snobbishness" has developed in the student societies to such a degree that "girls who have worked for their class and college go unhonored while the fashionable butlerly reaps the honors." Whether social influences count in the choice of members of the basketball team or of the crews on Lake Waban, we are not informed, but it is apparent that at Wellesley undergraduate interests are beginning to show a faithful reflection of those approved at Harvard, Yale and Princeton as the fine flower of a college education.

What they will do at Wellesley to reform conditions which at the men's colleges still present embarrassing questions of discipline is not so material as the testimony of their existence at a woman's college gives to its evolution along masculine lines. Wellesley has begun to realize the inadequacy of scholarship or even of athletics as a goal of culture compared with fraternity life, and with this awakening has come its progress of masculine learning. Can Vassar, Bryn Mawr and Barnard boast an equal advance away from outgrown academic ideals?—New York World.

Colonel John Dietrick, a friend of Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas and General Grant, died in his home in Plainfield, N. J., of general debility, aged 89 years. He possessed many tokens given him by the three great Americans. He made a fortune in California in 1849 and was present with Grant at the surrender of Vicksburg.

The handsome Newman residence on Forty-eighth street, facing the water for rent—10 large rooms. All conveniences. Reynolds Brothers. 27-11.

Automobiles—Call W. E. Rouse.

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### Vaudeville and Pictures

There are four acts on the Dreamland vaudeville bill for today, two new ones having been secured by the management yesterday to take the place of one that failed to appear Thursday. Happy Billy Baird, a blackface comedian, scored on his first appearance and got big laughs at every performance. William Ludwig, a female impersonator, also seemed to find favor with the crowds.

The Kesterson Brothers, dancers, and Frank DeVall, the tramp comedian and "pegleg" dancer, continue to please.

The bill is rounded out with a well selected program of moving pictures, and on the whole the management regards the show as one of the best yet offered.

### CHINA NEEDS LEADERS.

Without Them Peking Has No Alternative When Administration Fails.

China consciously in need of men to exercise wise leadership, does not find them. So China has systematically set about providing such men. The summoning of more teachers of science from the University of Chicago is the latest evidence that China recognizes its lack.

A few months ago Chicago was interested in the sight of 47 Chinese boys passing through the city on their way to Washington, whence they were to be distributed to various American universities, eventually to return home and spread Western methods for the creation of men of modern training. In the army the same situation exists. The Daily News correspondent at Shanghai writes of the new Chinese soldiery: "If provided with real leaders much may be attained."

In statesmanship and politics the need is even more pressing. The North China Daily News says: "It is a common expression among Chinese that their country is deficient in men, meaning thereby that there are few capable men to manage the affairs of the nation. This is a confession of lack of leaders. The facts are a verification of this conclusion. China is made to stand out in strange contrast to all the other treaty-making powers. The great powers, with their systems of parties, may, when dissatisfied with the lead and administration of one party, turn easily to another party and give it a chance to prove its capacity. Leaders are counted by tens and hundreds. China not only cannot turn to another party, no parties being in existence, but cannot even turn to a different or better set of men."

Definitely that newspaper adds: "It is a question whether we may turn with hopefulness to young China as Turkey has turned to the young Turks." A missionary, however, says: "There has been a marvelous revolution in China since the Boxers' outbreak. Since that time Peking has become quite Westernized." As to the future the observer remarks: "Probably in fifteen years' time the Chinese will say to us—missionaries and teacher and all of us: 'Now we have got all that we can out of you. You can go your way and leave us to work alone.'"

To expect that China will develop the men it needs is merely to expect another success similar to that which attended the modernizing efforts put forth by Japan.—Chicago News.

Miss Helen C. Carson, of Bedford, Ia., has entered upon her second year as superintendent of the high schools of Exira, Ia. She was recommended by the governor of Colorado for the place and was just 22 when she was elected. She is said to do the work just as well as her masculine predecessor and to receive the same salary.

### TORTURED BY ECZEMA

"When my boy was six years old, he suffered terribly with eczema. He could neither sit still nor lie quietly in bed, for the itching was dreadful. He would irritate spots by scratching and that only made them worse. A doctor treated him and we tried almost everything, but the eczema spread for two years until it very nearly covered the back part of his leg to the knee. Finally I got Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Pills. I used them in the morning and that evening I used them again and the improvement, even in those few hours, was surprising. The inflammation seemed to be so much less. I used two boxes of Cuticura Ointment, the same of the Pills and the Soap and my boy was cured. My son is now in his seventeenth year and he has never had a return of the eczema. I took care of a friend's child that had eczema on its face and limbs and I used the Cuticura Soap and Ointment. They acted on the child just as they did on my son and it has never returned. Mrs. A. J. Cochran, 1823 Columbia Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 20, 1909."

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### A Maori Wedding Invitation.

The most hospitable of hosts and best of good fellows at all times, the Maori excels himself on the occasion of a marriage feast. The invitation to the wedding is always sent by hand and the following is a literal translation of one of these "cards of invitation": "To you Maki Kupappa, my sister's child, weds Rata Remi, Chief of the Toti. Come thou to the 'hul' (feast), thou and thy wife. There are many guests; therefore come soon."—From the February Wide World Magazine.

The familiar face of Alonzo Stewart, who has been an employee of the senate for 32 years, is missing. The fact that Stewart is no longer an officer of the senate was disclosed by Senator Hale, who introduced a resolution providing for the payment of six months' salary to him.

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